

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PEKING 1030

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR ELAB CH
SUBJ: AGRICULTURAL WORKWEEK IN CHINA

REF: HONG KONG 4079

1. REFTEL IS THE FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF A 48-HOUR WORKWEEK IN CHINESE AGRICULTURE. MOST COMMUNES WE HAVE VISITED WORK SEVEN DAYS A WEEK, AND THE NUMBER OF HOURS PER DAY VARIES CONSIDERABLY WITH THE SEASON. IN THE WINTER IN NORTH CHINA, HOURS WORKED PER WEEK ARE CERTAINLY LESS THAN 48; ONE COMMUNE REPORTED SIX HOURS A DAY. IN SUMMER, HOWEVER, HOURS AVERAGE OVER 48, AND IN BUSY HARVEST AND PLANTING SEASONS MORE STILL. WE HAVE HEARD CLAIMS OF COMMUNES WORKING OVER 11 HOURS A DAY IN THE BUSY SEASONS.

2. WE PRESUME THE COMMUNE IN REFTEL IS AN ADVANCED SUBURBAN COMMUNE, PERHAPS SPECIALIZING IN VEGETABLES, WHICH CAN AFFORD RELATIVELY FIXED HOURS. ITS SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF EXCESS LABOR FREED BY MECHANIZATION IS APPARENTLY THE APPROVED ONE.
WOODCOCK

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